

MERCATOR:

O R,

Commerce Retrieved,

B E I N G

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade, &c.

From Thursday, May 27. to Saturday, May 29. 1714.

THE Opposers of the Treaty of Commerce being gone off from their Subject, are turn'd Statesmen, and are for bringing their Arguments from Trade to bear against the Bill now depending in Parliament against the Dissenters. The *Mercator's* Business lies another way; nor does he see the religious Affairs of the Nation, and this of the French Commerce have any Affinity: However, as this is the first thing they have done, in which the *Mercator* could bid them God-speed, he wishes them to go on there, only with one caution, that they should talk in that Cause with Truth and Candour, more than they have done in this of the French Commerce, lest they do there as they have done here, viz. leave their Friends in a worse Case than they found them.

The Interest of Commerce in general requires, no doubt, the keeping the People at home and employ'd; but the *Mercator's* Opinion is plain in this, and has been frequently hinted, that the keeping those People easy and quiet when at home, is equally the Interest of those who would propagate the Commerce of a Nation Discontent, and a tumultuous dissatisfied Nation are as inconsistent with the Advantage of Trade as any thing can be. Peace is essential to the Prosperity of Trade, much more Peace among our selves; and had these Men taken as much pains to preserve the Commerce of Britain, as they pretend to by their flourishing Titles they would not have endeavour'd to enrage and enflame the People as they have done, by imposing a thousand Frauds and Delusions upon them on one Hand, and falling with Railery and scoundrel Language upon all that differ with them on the other Hand; as if raising a Mob upon those that oppose them was the best way of answering their Objection, or of confirming what they advanc'd.

Had these Men taken other Courses, their Arguments would have had much more Weight with Men of Sense; for it is not easy to convince a reasonable Man, that Railing is any Signal of a good Cause, or adds any Force to an Argument.

But putting the Nation into a Ferment was the design of these Men, and under the specious pretence of preserving our Commerce, they have fallen in with the wicked Design of arming the common People against the Administration; and this has not been a little of the Reasons which might be given, why the other side appear provoked to abridge some People of those Privileges which they appear'd by their Conduct, not put a due Value upon: For how much soever the *Mercator* wishes that these Things were not fallen upon the People called Dissenters; yet it must be own'd, that the Thanks they have to give for it, are due to those of their Friends who have endeavour'd to draw an innocent People into the Displeasure of the Nation, and by their future Conduct to make them appear as unworthy of those Liberties they enjoy'd.

Indeed were the Conduct of some Men to be taken for a Test of the whole Body, one would wonder the whole Body should enjoy any Favours with the Ministry, or the QUEEN could take away from them; and this may be the reason why they cannot be serv'd in the present Case. But the Crime is the greater in these Men, that they should gratify their Party, and the Interest of a few, run the risque, and in a manner be certain to bring upon them the Resentment of the whole Nation.

Were those officious People to suffer alone, they ought to be told, that they who put their Hands into the Fire, ought to be burnt; but as these Men forfeit for many thousands of innocent Families, nay for Posterity and a People not yet born; this evidently proves, that
nothing

nothing can be more Villainous and Abominable than the Work these Men are employ'd in, viz. of enflaming the People, and raising a Rabble to clamour the Government.

Thus they lay a Foundation to ruin the Commerce which they would preserve, and destroy the Nation which they pretend to save. To put People into Passions and Fermentations is never the way to propagate Trade, or to encourage Manufactures but just the contrary; what Influence these Passions and Fermentations have on religious Matters, and how they have assisted to ruin the Dissenters at this time, is a Subject very well worth the Dissenters while to consider, and many useful Things might be said on that Head.

But the *Mercator* has all along avoided these things, and endeavoured to keep all Party-Causes and Politicks out of this Paper, and therefore avoids it now, tho' the Occasion is pressing enough.

The business of Trade is the thing in hand, Peace is a Friend to Commerce, as well abroad as at home, and as well at home as abroad. How shall People be encourag'd to Trade with one another, if all Love, Charity, Neighbourhood and Harmony is discouraged? And how shall Men be prompted to launch out their Stocks and Estates in Trade, when their Heads are filled with Jealousies and Fears, and Weapons put into their Hands to be always Invading one another?

These Things are quite contrary to the Nature of improvement, and the carrying on of useful Arts, Inventions, Undertakings and Adventures.

That these Jealousies, Fears, Passions and Resentments are begun, encreased and carried on by these Men the *Mercator* speaks of, is evident; even the furious Stile they write Witnesses for them: They dip their Pens in Gall, and an inveterate Bitterness runs thro' all their Writings.

Their Arguments are all Invectives and indecent Railings; There's not a word towards Accommodations and Moderations; no Meeting one another; no abatements either of Charity or good Manners, but every Man who cannot yield to their Sense or go their Lengths, is a Villain, a Lier, a Rogue: To oppose them with the calmest Reasoning is to be in a French Interest, to be a Mercenary, to be a Drudge, and be Employed. Tho' we know these Men are Employed, and Supported, and Paid; which is what cannot be said with Truth of those who write the *Mercator*.

When they have been Answer'd quietly, and Confuted effectually, they rage and call Names, break out upon Persons, and fly out into Slander, Defamation, and lying false Accusations; which, when fully detected, they have not had one word to say for, but have eaten the Shame, and stood like a Self-condemned Rogue, with nothing to Answer.

With what Face can this Wretch mention the *Dissenters*? It is such, as he that have Ruin'd the *Dissenters*, and the Curse of the *Dissenters*, and of their Children, will be always

the due of these Men. It is this Party-Feud, this wicked Quarrel that has drawn in too many of the *Dissenters* to push into Things which they might have avoided, and yet have been good Christians, and faithful to their Country and to their Principles also; and now the Resentment falls upon the whole Body for the Errors of a few, which is very unhappy; and these Men pretend to come in to advise and direct. The *Dissenters* may well retart to them, as a Dying Drunkard did once to a famous Physician, who had first led him into the Vice, and then came to Visit him as a Physician; the poor Man seeing him come into the Room, shook his Head, and said,

Ah! tu fundamenta geciisti mea miseria.

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May 22, 24, 26.

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2 Serges
460 yards Flannel
* 135 lb. Woollen Cloth
14 lb. Silk Hose
* 28 dozen Hose
* 84 lb. Pewter
56 lb. Wrought Brass
116 lb. Wrought Iron
33 C. Leather
2 C. Cheese
26150 Horn Plates
14 C. Gauls
84 lb. Confectionary Ware
18 C. Allom
20 Ton Logwood
5 Ton Nicoraga Wood
31 Fodder 11 C. Lead
1 Ton 13 C. Block Tin
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